UNDP

UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME

Distributed on request
DP/PROJECTS/7312

ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

IPF:(1987-91) $ 15.6 million

(DOM/91/008) - Development of Primary Education

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	17 June 1992
Expected duration:	Six years
Proposed executing agency:	Government
Government implementing agency:	Secretaria de Estado de Educacion, Bellas Artes y Culto
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$ 280 200 Source of funds: IPF
Government cost sharing:	$ 16 538 900
Total UNDP budget:	$ 16 819 100

Project background

As a complement to Structural Adjustment Programs targeting economic reactivation and restructuring of the productive sector, the Government of the Dominican Republic has actively embarked on an educational strategy. This strategy, designed to reform the educational sector and raise its quality and coverage, also constitutes one of the primary efforts to initiate a larger Human Development Program for the country.

The Education strategy took its impetus from the Jomtien Conference where the Dominican Republic clearly committed itself to the implementation of the tenets of World Declaration on Education for All. As such, the approach chosen included a strong emphasis on primary education and multisectoral interventions in the design of the programs. It is in this context that UNDP assistance, within the framework of the current project, has been solicited.

As regards UNDP assistance it is significant to note that interventions in the education sector were largely a consequence of sectorial assessments (DOM/88/010) and development of the Ten-Year Education Plan (DOM/90/013) undertaken by UNDP. It was on the basis of these assessments and surveys that the Government negotiated: (1) the (US)$15 million World Bank Loan that is to fund the present project, together with a (US)$2 million government contribution; and (2) an IDB loan for (US)$29 million targeted for the rehabilitation of physical infrastructure and the purchase of primary school educational materials. The current project is to be complemented by this IDB government executed capital assistance project.

While statistics in the education sector indicate that roughly 90 percent of children aged 7-12 years enroll for admission in grades 1 - 6, only 50 percent of those enrolled actually attend and less than 20 percent of those who begin grade 1 graduate to grade 6.

[1/] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

/...

The drop out rate is the highest in grade 2, implying that a very large proportion of the population is functionally illiterate. The gender statistics are roughly equally broken down for all age groups. Administration of the public school system is virtually non-existent with no system of national tests or supervision of the quality of either education or individual school administrative systems. Consequently, private schools present the only viable alternative in real terms.

Description of project

The long-term objective of the project is to develop primary education and its management.

The immediate objectives under educational and management development are to: (a) improve student achievement, school administration efficiency and student participation; and (b) strengthen institutional arrangements for planning, educational assessment and community support for primary education.

Project activities will include: (a) training 10 000 primary school teachers and 750 administrators and supervisors; (b) designing and implementing a regular school maintenance program for 4 000 rural and urban classrooms; and (c) developing a school nutrition program to include 80 000 and 100 000 beneficiaries in rural and marginal urban areas respectively; (d) designing and implementing a management information system for educational administration; (e) conducting studies on school management decentralization, cost-effectiveness of varying school types (summer schools, special weekend schools, and tutorial programs); (f) developing a primary school national testing system; (g) training supervisors on national test management and organization of 5 000 parent-teacher associations; and (h) reducing the student repetition rate from 17 percent in 1990 to not higher than 10 percent in 1997, as well as the student dropout rate to not higher than four percent in 1997; and (i) increasing the enrollment rate from 90 percent in 1990 to not lower than 95 percent in 1997.

Inputs

UNDP will provide 30 work-months in teacher training, 20 work-months in school supervision training, 20 work-months in school maintenance, 36 work-months in school nutrition, 12 work-months in information management, 12 work-months in education assessment, six work-months in community participation, 360 work-months in administrative personnel, and 600 work-months in national consultancies; 28 subcontracts in training for teachers, supervisors and administrators, school nutrition, school maintenance, information systems, community participation, educational assessment, studies, and project administration; training in the form of study tours for educational assessment and community participation and high level seminars and workshops on educational policy for public and private sector officials; office equipment, equipment for school maintenance, computer systems, generator, transportation equipment including 14 motor vehicles, two pick-up trucks, and 300 motorcycles; and miscellaneous costs including maintenance of equipment, sundry and reporting costs.

Financial data

	$
Personnel	3 392 400
Subcontract	7 083 000
Training	250 000
Equipment	4 183 000
Miscellaneous	1 910 700
Total	16 819 100

- - - - -